

## FLEET FOCUS

# SURFPAC visits Port Royal in Arabian Gulf

by Lt. jg. Jill Robinson  
*USS Port Royal*

USS Port Royal, underway in the Arabian Gulf on deployment, was honored by a recent visit by Vice Adm. Moore, Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific.

Following a brief helicopter ride out from the USS John C. Stennis, Vice Adm. Moore arrived on the Port Royal flight deck in the early afternoon. Highlights of his visit included an all hands call, meetings with chiefs and officers, and a tour of Combat Information Center (CIC).

He presented end of tour awards to Hull Technician 2nd Class Simmons and Gas Turbine System Technician Machine 1st Class Manalo and pinned the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists' (ESWS) insignia on five newly qualified crewmembers: Electrician's Mate 1st class Daly, Gas Turbine System Technician Machine 1st Class Wood, Disbursing Clerk 2nd Class Brett, Operations Specialist 2nd Class Akridge, and Sonar Technician Surface 2nd Class Zingaro.

Additionally, Vice Adm. Moore reenlisted Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Tosie Thomson, who stated: "It was great to have the Commander of the Surface Forces Pacific reenlist me, I will always remember it." Port Royal Sailors, very busy supporting both operation Southern Watch and maritime interception operations, had great things to say about Vice Adm. Moore's visit.

"It's great that the admiral could take time out from his busy schedule to have a one-on-one with a deployed ship," commented Boatswain's Mate 2ndClass Daniel Garcia.

Admiral Moore spoke about his job and responsibilities as type commander, his enjoyment of visiting ships that are 'in action,' and answered crewmember's questions. He also complimented the Port Royal team on their great job done during the inter-deployment training cycle and on their current Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

"It's great for the Sailors to see someone so high ranking take such an obvious interest in our day to day lives and concerns," said Lt. Beth Sanabia, officer in charge of Port Royal's meteorological detachment.

After the Port Royal sailors put thier "best foot forward" to properly execute all departing honors for Vice Adm. Moore as he returned to the Stennis, Lt. Cmdr. John Lauer, Port Royal's executive officer wrapped up the experience by saying, "Every Port Royal sailor can take pride in the admiral's praise, and we are looking forward to his next visit."



Port Royal photo

Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, Vice Adm. Edward Moore visited the crew of USS Port Royal (CG 73) recently in the Arabian Gulf. While Vice Adm. Moore was there he took time to recognize Port Royal Sailors during a awards ceremony and to reenlist BM3 Tosie Thomson on the flight deck.

## USS Lake Erie honors leaders with ‘Class of ‘70’ award

by Ensign Ryan Ona  
*USS Lake Erie Public Affairs*

AN awards ceremony was held March 7 on USS Lake Erie (CG 70) to honor the recipients of the "U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1970" Leadership Award for 1999. Lt. j.g. Michael Daves, and Gas Turbine Systems (Electronics) 2nd Class (SW) Thomas Eicks were recognized for their "outstanding leadership, professional performance, initiative, and contributions to the mission of [Lake Erie]." Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and a member of the Class of '70, presented the award.

Lt. j.g. Michael Daves is the Communications Officer aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70). Originally from Shelby, North Carolina, he was commissioned through the NROTC program at Georgia Tech. As communications officer, Lt. j.g. Daves has led Lake Erie's Communications (OC) Division to two consecutive Command and Control Excellence Awards, or green "Es."

A native of Lynn, Mass., Gas Turbine Systems (Electronic) 2nd Class (SW) Thomas Eicks reported aboard Lake Erie five years ago as a Fireman Recruit. His incredible hard work and dedication since have earned him his current assignment as work center su-



USS Lake Erie photo

Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, congratulates the Class of '70 Leadership Award recipients from USS Lake Erie (CG 70), GSE2 (SW) Thomas Eicks and Lt. j.g Michael Daves.

pervisor in Main Propulsion (M) Division, the distinction of being Lake Erie's youngest Engineering Officer of the Watch, and designation as a Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

Petty Officer Eicks' 10-man work center is responsible for maintaining the seven gas turbine engines in Lake Erie, as well as the supporting electronic equipment.

Lake Erie is grateful to the USNA Class of 1970 for their continued strong support of their namesake ship, CG 70,

and is proud to have such outstanding individuals as award recipients. Lt. j.g. Daves and GSE2 (SW) Eicks epitomize dedication to duty, positive attitude, and professionalism aboard Lake Erie.

Adm. Fargo congratulated the recipients of the Class of '70 Award and addressed the crew of Lake Erie about leadership.

"The Navy needs people who are willing to step up, take charge, ...and take responsibility. That's what we're all about."

## Submarine Veterans honored during centennial ceremony

by JO1 Robert Palomares  
*NR CINCPACFLT DET. 520*

The smell of diesel billowed across Pier 45 along San Francisco's Embarcadero as the rejuvenated engines of the 1943-era submarine USS Pampanito, (SS-383) roared to life during ceremonies commemorating 100 years of submarine service.

This was one of a series of ceremonies taking place throughout the country this year to highlight the normally silent service. A number of World War II submariners were on hand to celebrate — and remember.

Bob Taylor, a former Torpedoman Third Class, was a crew member of a ship built about the same time as the Pampanito. He looks back on his time in the cramped quarters of the sub now with fondness. "We were younger, more adventurous. We could take anything anybody dished out."

Alan McDonald, of Lafayette, Calif., was a Engineman Third Class aboard the submarine USS Sea Devil. "There was a fascination towardsubmarines," he said. "They were kind of mysterious when I joined the Navy in 1947. We were a close-knit group and not only because of the close quarters.

The camaraderie was thick. We were one against the world."

"Good money and good food" drew Raymond Richmond to the submarine service.

"I was in the Navy for eight years before I got into the submarine service. But once I got in I realized it took a special kind of man to ride in these things. Everyone had to know his job and his shipmate's job. Our lives literally depended on the man next to you. That's why it's not easy to earnthese dolphins," he said pointing to his warfare pin.

He remembers one time coming into port. "The captain was in a hurry to get in. In those days, the captain had his car parked right next to where we tied up. Well, he came in fast and smashed into the pier — and into his car. I think he was the only captain to hit his own car with a submarine. True story."

When Justin Dygent completed his studies in mechanical engineering at U.C. Berkeley, he decided to join the Navy — and the submarine service. The young ensign reported aboard the USS Archerfish at Midway Island in 1943. One day in 1945 the sub sank the biggest warship in the Japanese Navy — the 70,000 ton aircraft carrier Shinano. "The captain of the submarine saw the Japanese trying to move the carrier into an inland sea. "I saw the carrier and it looked like an island moving across the water. It was huge! Well, we prevented it from going into the inland sea. After we sunk it, we received the Presidential Unit Citation."

"There were a lot of hard times," said Rocky Langfeldt, of Yankton, South Dakota. "But I'd do it all again. Just for the camaraderie aboard the boat. Once you're aboard, you're all equal, from the skipper on down. It's a very close-knit group of people — you had to be."

Langfeldt served aboard submarines between 1942 and 1946. He remembers one day in particular. "I was washed overboard in a typhoon off Brisbane, Australia. Ithought I was gone for sure. I thought they would never come back for one man. But they did.

## USS Greeneville crew makes a wish come true

by Cmdr. Scott D. Waddle,  
*Commanding Officer, USS Greeneville*

On a bright Saturday morning recently Joshua Argue and his mother Mary were hosted by the crew of USS Greeneville for a tour and a morning of entertainment. Joshua and his family were flown to Hawaii and sponsored by the "Make a Wish Foundation," a National Organization whose purpose is to brighten the days of families whose members are being treated for cancer by making wishes come true.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization that is funded by donations from around the world. Joshua, who turns eight in July, had submitted his request to "Make a Wish" more than a year ago when he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. A year later, after many chemotherapy treatments and surgery to remove cancerous tumors from his body, Joshua is recovering.

Shortly after his request was granted, Mary (also diagnosed with cancer) learned that she would be able to join her son, as well as other members of the Argue family on an all expense paid trip to paradise.

The family arrived aboard Greeneville at 10 a.m. and was greeted by members of the crew. Storekeeper 2nd Class (SS) Warren Dake served as the family's escort which included a tour of the ship, sounding of ship's alarms and a pit stop in the mess decks for hard pack chocolate ice cream.

Joshua was most impressed with the ship's periscope, fire control, torpedo and sonar systems which provided his family with the opportunity to feel, see and observe what life is like onboard one of the Navy's newest Los Angeles class fast attack nuclear powered submarines. The sounding of the ship's Auxiliary Diving Alarm, an antique claxon, brought a smile to Joshua's face and startled other members of his family who were caught off guard by the sound.

Joshua thought the visit onboard was "pretty cool, lots of fun and neat to be an honorary submariner!" Prior to the family's departure, Joshua was presented with place setting from the ship's Wardroom to remind him of his fellow crewmembers on Greeneville while he eats breakfast in the morning.

When asked what he would remember the most about the trip Joshua smiled, licked his lips, and said "The chocolate ice cream on a submarine!" The crew of Greeneville wished Joe, Mary, Jennifer and Joshua "Fair winds and following seas" as the family departed knowing that both had formed a lasting bond of friendship.

They couldn't turn the boat around because the hugewaves would turn her, so the captain backed it up to get to me. The waves were like skyscrapers. When I was down in a valley of water, I couldn't see anything else, then the wave would take me up again and all I could see was sky. It was beautiful! After I got back aboard, I was sent to Captain's Mast for jumping ship," he said.

He remembers another time off the coast of Saigon, of then-French Indochina, now Vietnam. "An enemy ship was right above us. They had run out of depth charges so they started to grapple for us. They caught us with the grappling hook once, but we quickly got out of it. It was scary. You could hear the chains running along the hull." But on this sunny and unusually warm day in San Francisco, that day seemed far away.

During the ceremony, guest speaker Bud Gruner addressed the crowd. Gruner is a former submariner who was awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest military award, and the Silver Star, for his part in sinking a number of Japanese ships, including a light cruiser and destroyer. He also had a hand in sinking a number of Japanese freighters carrying needed supplies to Japanese troops populating hundreds of islands in the South Pacific.

"After Pearl Harbor, the submarines were the only offensive weapon the Navy had. In the months following the attack, submarines sank half of the Japanese merchant fleet," he said. "It is a close brotherhood that can't be understood unless you've lived it."

Concluding the ceremony, former submariner Bud Burchell read the names of the submarines lost during the past century while the ship's bell tolled for each name. One additional bell was tolled for all hands lost during the past century. As the names were called off, wives of former submariners tossed white carnations into San Francisco Bay.